

THE TRUE DEMOCRAT

JOHN G. COLLINS, Proprietor.

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY MORNING.

Entered as Second Class Matter March 31, 1906, at the Post Office at Tallahassee, Florida, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Office in Telephone Building, Corner Adams and Clinton Streets, Telephone No. 190.

Subscription, \$1.00 Per Year, in Advance. Advertising Rates on Application.

The True Democrat is the Official Newspaper of Leon County.

Tallahassee, Friday, Dec. 14., 1906.

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union of Dade county has started a movement to have a wet and dry election, with fair prospects of adding that county to the drys. One by one the counties of Florida are joining with the majority. Gadsden, we believe, is now the only wet county on the line of railroads from Pensacola to Jacksonville.

Governor Broward and the administration gang seem to have been very much "obfuscated" in making the Leon county judgeship appointment; but it came at last, after so long a time, and Mr. B. A. Meginniss was appointed our honorable county judge late Tuesday afternoon. A worthy young man gets the office, but the will of fully 95 per cent of Leon's citizens has been defied by the great Napoleon Bonaparte Broward and his advisers, and the world moves on.

The railroads in Florida, as well as all over the South, are coming in for their full share of complaint and abuse at the terrible service they are now giving in freight, passenger and mail service. Very few are making schedule time daily and the delays in hauling and handling freights is causing worlds of trouble and loss to patrons along the line. The Atlantic Coast Line in Florida seems to be the worst yet. A speedy remedy should be found, and now that the kick is becoming so general, some improvement may be expected soon. What the people in large numbers kick for, with justice in it, generally comes to pass.

The Fort Myers Tropical Breeze complains that we did not give the information it desired concerning the taxation of railroads. From its language, we inferred that it wished to know something about the method of assessment, but it now appears that it was the assessed valuations which it wanted. These are to be found on pages 106 to 155 of the report of the Comptroller for 1904, a copy of which we take pleasure in forwarding to our esteemed contemporary. We also desire to tender our apologies for referring to the editor of the Tropical Breeze as "a new-comer." It was not, of course, used as a term of reproach, for some of Florida's best citizens were once "new-comers."

The Citizen-Reporter Special Trade Edition, dated November 30th, came to our exchange table Tuesday. It is full of splendidly written matter, setting forth the many business advantages, progress and public spirit of Columbia county's citizenship, is very neatly printed, illustrated with handsome cuts of residences, business houses, scenes and pictures of enterprising men. Such trade issues of a county weekly does incalculable good in advertising a county, shows the genuine interest taken by both publisher and patrons, and newspaper men in every county in Florida should be encouraged to get out such trade issues. We congratulate Editors Dodd on their effort, and hope they will secure patronage, at least once each year, to do so again. It is the kind of advertising that pays a whole community, and great good for Columbia county must come out of it.

The beauties in the drainage board kindergarten have succeeded in making another cheap land sale. This time to the East Coast Canal Co., and they get \$50,000 in the double-barrelled board's till (not the State Treasury), as has been stated, and now some more cash can be expended in "digging those ditches." Of course the great head of that board will offer again as an excuse, "we have precedents for cheap sales and the right to sell for what we please," but will that satisfy the people of Florida? Would it not look cleaner and better if itemized statements of expenditures were being published, and would you not feel just a little better if you were taking the people into your confidence about all such public affairs?

Mention The True Democrat.

A NEW DEPARTURE.

With a tremendous flourish of tin trumpets the wonderful fact has been announced that 200,000 acres more of the people's land have been sold to raise funds (\$50,000) with which to continue the drainage operations in the Everglades. This sale, at 25 cents per acre, is surrounded with some rather extraordinary circumstances.

The sale was made to the Florida Coast Line Canal and Transportation Company, which for several years has been engaged in the work of opening a waterway from the mouth of the St. Johns river to Biscayne bay, under a charter which granted swamp and overflowed land corresponding with its completed distance, and amounting, when the work should be completed, to something like one million acres; of which amount, 595,778 acres had been conveyed to the company, for distance completed, previous to the beginning of the Jennings administration. In accordance with its peculiar "policy," the Jennings I. I. Board refused to convey other lands, claimed as earned by the company under its charter. Besides this refusal, when in 1905 the Legislature enacted a law extending the life of the company's land grant, Governor Broward vetoed the bill; so that, at this time, the company's land grant, having expired by limitation, is no longer in force. Notwithstanding this fact, under the announced conditions of this sale, the board has not only sold lands to a corporation in direct conflict with its boasted "policy," but it has assumed legislative powers, and undertaken to revive the company's expired grant, by agreeing to extend the same for five years beyond the date of expiration; and has also contracted to convey an additional 234,000 acres, conditioned upon the completion of the canal, thus deliberately repudiating the Jennings pet theory, that legislative grants of land to railroad and canal companies have no value which the board is bound to recognize.

It is not, perhaps, surprising that the Governor and his board should, in order to defy the people of Florida who have voted to order a halt in his drainage scheme until the legitimate action of the Legislature can be invoked, sell the people's land at sacrifice prices; but that the board, in order to uphold the Governor in his defiance of the people, should stultify itself by a deliberate repudiation of a "policy" which was claimed as the chief glory of the Jennings administration, is somewhat remarkable.

The official attitude of Governor Broward in the premises is still more remarkable. Whether, or not, this hold-up of the canal company was deliberately planned in advance, the fact remains that it was the Governor's little veto which made its execution possible. The alleged reasons for the making of the present deal with the canal company—the completion of a great and necessary public work—are in direct and irreconcilable conflict with the action and reasoning of the Governor in destroying the land grant, and making impossible, so far as he was able to do so, the completion of this great work, for the continuance and completion of which the board now takes to itself so much credit.

Although neither the Governor nor the board possess the constitutional power which they have usurped, of undoing the work of destruction wrought by his veto last year, it is not at all unlikely that the Legislature will confirm the effort by legal and lawful action; but the sale to the canal company of lands which were already claimed by it as having been earned under its charter and grant was nothing less than an act of OFFICIAL BRIGANDAGE, for which its perpetrators will yet HAVE TO ANSWER; and, of course, there is but one way to prevent the further wasting of the money of the people, derived from this sale, and that is through an appeal to the courts; and as the legal and official representatives of the injured people are the very ones who are causing the injury, no redress is possible unless some patriotic citizen or group of citizens take it upon themselves to commence proceedings in the name of the people.

Hon. Chas. E. Worth, one of the most highly respected and loved citizens of Tampa, died in that city on Monday. He had served Hillsborough county for a number of years as tax collector, and at the late election was again chosen for that office, but owing to ill health had notified the authorities he would not qualify for the office, and a new collector was hurriedly appointed to that office last week. A Times-Union Bureau correspondent from Tampa, Dec. 10th, says of him: "No death in this county for some time has created the profound sorrow which is expressed over the demise of this faithful official and honored citizen."

LEON COUNTY JUDGESHIP.

At a late hour Tuesday afternoon, Governor Broward appointed Mr. B. A. Meginniss County Judge of Leon county, to fill out the unexpired term of the late much loved and respected Judge R. A. Whitfield, who died a number of days before. B. A. Meginniss, the new Judge, is a graduate of Florida State College, and of the Law Department of the University of Virginia, from both of which schools of learning he won honors of which any young man can well feel proud. At the last term of the Circuit Court he and his friend and schoolmate, Mr. Francis B. Winthrop, stood splendid examinations by a most competent board, and they were both admitted to the bar. That Mr. Meginniss is worthy and competent no one will gain say, and it is predicted he will make Leon county an efficient public official, and a just Judge, and The True Democrat wishes him well and extends congratulations.

There were among those who sought the appointment, Mr. Howard Gamble, who was a candidate before the primaries about two years ago, and who received a very few votes less than Judge Whitfield, and who presented with his application for the appointment the endorsement of almost the solid County Democratic Executive Committee, all the county officials, a majority of the bar, and a large and strong petition of the citizens of the county, safely estimated at 95 per cent. of the whole county.

Mr. Robert W. Williams, one of Tallahassee's brightest, most worthy and highly thought of young attorneys, who has been practicing law before the courts for several years, also backed by friends and some influential attorneys, who sought the appointment for him, was among the earliest applicants.

The True Democrat will not assail the Governor and his advisers for disregarding the wishes of so large a percentage of the citizenship. We will simply say Governor Broward in his action in this appointment has carried out his own and his predecessor's plans and ways of dealing with Floridians in regard to making appointments. We leave the matter thus with the citizens of Leon to form their own opinions of him and them in the premises.

The death of Hon. N. R. Carter, of Levy county, makes a vacancy in the State Senate of which he was an honored member, and this will have to be filled by a special election. Now it may be none of our business, but as a Senator may do good or evil for the whole State, and as we have absolute confidence in his ability, and purpose to do only good, we nominate Brother Farmer of the Bronson-Times Democrat, and if all the press of the State don't second the nomination it will be an oversight. —Sumter Times.

Rise up brothers, to the man, and let's all second the nomination, a Farmer—newspaper man should and will make Floridians a safe legislator, and we say this, too, without knowing just how Brother Farmer feels about our Governor's making threats that he will have laws passed that will make all of our people "weep, wail and gnash their teeth."

If Governor Broward will take the advice of friends he will not try to put through any constitutional amendments when the same may be accomplished by legitimate legislative action. —Tampa Tribune.

But will he? Has he not almost always preferred to take the advice of those who would lead him off after "false gods?" Has he not been in the habit of taking the advice of those whom, as the chief executive of Florida, he should have shunned? Has not that kind of advice led him into a position that has and is injuring him largely as our Governor? Has he proven true to some of his "dear friends?" What is Napoleon Bonaparte Broward playing politics for, anyhow?

On Thursday last the Pardoning Board of the State met at Jacksonville. As usual, it displayed the want of judgment that has characterized its sittings for many a long day, upsetting long and tedious inquiries and court trials which resulted in the conviction of dangerous criminals—some of them murderers—by granting them "conditional" pardons, nearly always equivalent to absolute freedom. It will not be long, at this rate, before a trial in a Florida court will be looked upon as a farce and the thing known as punishment will cease to cause any terror for the felon. In the hands of these exceedingly sympathetic gentlemen it is gradually becoming a myth. —Tampa Tribune, 11th. But the head of that Board has his Cooper with him still!

Ladies' Gold Bracelets. Elegant and inexpensive. P. T. Nicholson, the Jeweler.

The People Say!!!

WHAT SAY THEY?

THEY SAY

The Best for a Christmas Gift.

THEN SAY

Tallahassee Drug Co.

A LINE OF GOODS SURPASSING ALL IDEAS OF THE IMAGINATION . . .

Hand - Decorated Vases,
Cut-Glass Water Sets,
Stained-Glass Water Sets,
Glove Boxes,
Choice Writing Sets,
Writing Paper,
Mirror and Brush Sets,
Shaving Sets.

FANCY NOVELTIES

A line never before equaled in the city.

Don't Forget to Write it Down:

A WATERMAN

"Ideal" Fountain Pen
The Best Xmas Present.

The Tallahassee Drug Company.